

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LISBON 02971 281406Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SAM-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

AF-06 EB-07 IO-10 ERDE-00 /080 W

----- 089305

O R 281311Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2906

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2971

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, NATO

SUBJ: ADMIRAL AZEVEDO COMMENTS ON NATO

REF: (A) LISBON 2798; (B) LONDON FBIS 262355Z MAY 75

SUMMARY: PORTUGAL'S NAVY CHIEF HAS COMMENTED POSITIVELY, BOTH
IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATELY, UPON NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF AND REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER
ADMIRAL PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO JOURNALISTS
UPON RETURN FROM NATO CONFERENCES IN BELGIUM:

A. NATO IS A DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION: (COMMENTING ON
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LISBON 02971 281406Z

RESOLUTION OF QUESTION SPAIN/NATO TIES) "I WAS CONVINCED

THAT HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS WERE INFLUENCED BY AMERICA, BUT IN REALITY THEY ARE NOT. WHEN THE QUESTION IS ONE OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY, THE ALLIANCE FUNCTIONS DEMOCRATICALLY AND THE OPINION OF A SMALL COUNTRY COUNTS FOR AS MUCH AS THAT OF AMERICA. THE U.S. ACCEPTED A DEMOCRATIC GAME, FOUGHT LIKE ANY GOOD PLAYER, WAS DEFEATED, AND ACCEPTED THE DEFEAT. THIS IS AN AFFIRMATION THAT I AM PLEASED TO MAKE PUBLICLY, IN ORDER THAT THERE BE NO DOUBT ABOUT DOMINATION OF THE ALLIANCE BY AMERICA."

B. ALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA: A MISUNDERSTANDING -- JOURNALIST WHO REPORTED THIS MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS MERELY CONJECTURE OF ONE DELEGATE CONCERNING POSSIBLE FUTURE FACILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA TO DEFEND OIL ROUTE.

C. SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO: THERE ARE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES FOR PORTUGAL IN SUCH MEMBERSHIP. RIGHT NOW IT IS NOT IN PORTUGAL'S INTEREST FOR SPAIN TO JOIN. BUT CONDITIONS MAY CHANGE, AND FACT THAT PORTUGAL AND SPAIN GEOGRAPHICALLY ARE ON SAME PENINSULA LEADS ME TO CONCLUDE THAT IT COULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS. HOWEVER, IT IS FOR ALL MEMBERS, NOT JUST PORTUGAL TO DECIDE. DURING THE VOTE, PORTUGAL'S TURN WAS LAST. I LIMITED MYSELF TO SAYING I AGREED WITH MAJORITY. FORTUNATELY NO ONE QUESTIONED ME, AS I WOULD HAVE BEEN AT LOSS AS HOW TO RESPOND.

D. PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP IN NATO: NO ONE EVER BROACHED QUESTION OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOP. THAT THIS PRESENTS PROBLEMS IS A FACT, ESPECIALLY, FOR EXAMPLE, REGARDING ATOMIC MATTERS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH PROBLEMS EXIST. IN ANY CASE IT SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE THAT NATO IS CONCERNED, SINCE PROBLEM PREVIOUSLY AROSE IN CASE OF ICELAND.

E. NATO/WARSAW PACT EQUILIBRIUM: IS NOW UNBALANCED IN FAVOR OF WARSAW PACT. "(CIVILIAN LEADERS) DO NOT ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THIS CONCLUSION OF MILITARY ONES, BUT DISAGREE-ABLE AS THIS MAY BE FOR NATO. . . THE ANALYSIS IS BASED ON FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS WHICH, IN MY OPINION, ARE ACCURATE." CIVILIANS WILL BE UNHAPPY WITH THIS CONCLUSION BECAUSE IT IMPLIES NEED TO ASSUME GREATER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. THIS IS HARD TO DO UNDER PRESENT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RESTORE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO DEFENSIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LISBON 02971 281406Z

2. COMMENT: AZEVEDO HAS REPUTATION OF BEING "PROGRESSIVE," AND IS GENERALLY HELD TO BE STRAIGHT TALKER. EXPRESSO EDITOR PINTO BALSEMAO, WHO WAS DELEGATE TO NATO MEETING AND RODE BACK IN SAME PLANE AS AZEVEDO, ALSO REPORTED AZEVEDO'S APPARENTLY GENUINE SURPRISE AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF NATO PROCEDURES AND THE FACT THAT NATO WAS NOT, AS THE LEFT HERE CHARGES, A TOOL OF US INTERESTS.

3. AZEVEDO'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ARE ANOTHER
EXAMPLE OF THE UTILITY OF GETTING THE RELATIVELY UNTRAVELLED
AND UNSOPHISTICATED AFM LEADERS OUT OF PORTUGAL AND EXPOSED
TO THE REAL WORLD.

CARLUCCI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, NAVAL FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON02971
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: UPGRADED TO CONFIDENTIAL PER 78 LISBON 634
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0335
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750514/aaaaamco.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LISBON 2798
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMIRAL AZEVEDO COMMENTS ON NATO
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, NATO, (AZEVEDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006